

The Week of Italian cuisine in the World 2022 : A celebration of definitive Italian food culture

Mediterranean culture is known for its exquisitely vibrant cuisines that give you a delicious blend of foods made with finely sourced ingredients while making sure the food will be wholesome and healthy. With a view to promoting Italy's food production and gastronomic traditions abroad, an annual themed event called 'The Week of Italian Cuisine in the World,' was created in 2016 by Italy's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation's Directorate General for Country Promotion.

The 2022 edition was held from 14 to 20 November, and one of the most important aspects of this event is the 'fiestas' that are held with various themes. On November 17, a fiesta was held at the residence of His Excellency Enrico Nunziata, the Italian Ambassador to Bangladesh.

"The week of Italian cuisine is now in its 7th edition, which is an integrated promotion of the initiative that aims to showcase the excellence of Italian food and wine sector support. We want to support exports of our wonderful Italian food culture and accommodate incoming tourist flows by organising targeted events at embassies, consulates, and most importantly, at countries where the local populace gets to experience the Italian hospitality," said Enrico Nunziata.



The venue of the fiesta was decorated marvellously, with four tents like stalls draped in all white clothes, giving off a Mediterranean party vibe. With the chefs busy cooking on the spot in front of everyone, it was not every day that you get to see authentic Italian food made by talented food artisans that requires a lot of labour, freshly sourced organic ingredients, but above all, love and passion for the food.

So what Italian delicacies were there? To start with, there were a variety of pastas, from 'Tagliatelle fatte a mano al pomodoro' which is a fresh homemade tagliatelle pasta with refreshing tomato sauce that serves as a classic recipe of finest Italian traditional dish, to finger foods like 'arancini di riso bianchi' which is your classic cheese balls but fried in olive oil to have a crunchy exterior to have that

exquisite taste of cheesy goodness.

Along with the delightful pasta and finger foods, there was also a stall that specialised in meat dishes like 'Brasato al vino rosso,' a braised beef dish, and 'Polpetta di carne fritte,' a soft and golden fried meatball that are made with minced meat, egg, cheese, bread, and various kinds of flavourings! The meat stall, along with the other stalls satisfied the cravings of the guests, who could easily try the



pastas and cheese balls, or by having them together to have the ultimate delectable Italian food experience!

Enrico Nunziata further added, "This event is also a reflection of some important issues, like the impact of Mediterranean diet, which is universally



recognised as a very healthy diet and very sustainable. We have also organised a fusion exhibition, The Heroes of Food, in association with Slow Food, an organisation that promotes local food and traditional cooking. Through this effort, we want to tell the world of women and men who are defending the traditions and cultures and environments of the communities through food."

With the theme of 'conviviality, sustainability and innovation,' the Week of Italian Cuisine in the World showcased the charm of Mediterranean food culture and how crucial healthy food habits can lead to better health for people and the protection of the planet.

By Feda Al Hossain
Photo: Sazzad Ibne Sayed

Kavan launches its brand-new outlet in Dhanmondi

Kavan, a popular name among multi-cuisine restaurants of Khilgaon, is all set to welcome the foodies of Dhanmondi to its new outlet, Kavan Signature. Located on the 11th floor of Gawsia Twin Peak at Satmasjid Road, Dhanmondi, Kavan Signature has the perfect blend of amazing food, a beautiful interior, and a cosy environment that provides a relaxing experience for its guests.

In addition to its existing Indian and Thai food, this new branch has taken on premium Continental cuisine and it sounds very promising for your taste buds.

With appetisers like the breaded prawn butterfly served with tartar sauce, and grilled mushroom, you are already off to a great start. Two items that are bound to catch your eye among the soups are the Cream of Asparagus and the French onion soup. Both of these classic French delicacies are as delicious as they are uncommon among the restaurants of Dhaka.

If you are someone who truly appreciates the taste of the sea, Kavan Signature is definitely the place for you. Not only does it have a wide selection of the most popular salmon fish dishes, but you will also find king prawns, lobsters, and squid, making your mouth water instantly. Premium cut steaks with varying flavours ensure that meat lovers are also an equal part of the fun.

Although the restaurants of Dhanmondi are always buzzing with guests, it is difficult to find places with a mixed crowd. A burger joint is likely to target the youth only,



whereas an Indian or a buffet restaurant caters almost exclusively to the older group or family gatherings. Ajoy Poddar, Managing Partner of Kavan, says that the idea for Kavan Signature is to build a place that has something for everyone.



"We want to create an atmosphere that is perfect for spending time with friends, family, or just by self," said Poddar, "The cuisines have been carefully designed to appeal to the youth as well as a more mature crowd."

A quick scan of their menu tells the rest of the story. Apart from the Continental, Thai and Indian, Kavan Signature has the answer for your craving for a perfect pizza or a bowl of delectable spaghetti. The best part of it all is that each cuisine has a different chef with years of experience, ensuring authenticity, and uncompromised quality of food.

"The kitchens of Kavan are under constant CCTV surveillance," added Ajoy Poddar. "In order to assure our guests of our quality, we have set up the display outside the kitchen and into the main area of the restaurant."

We must admit, this is an interesting take on an open kitchen.

In India, the word 'Kavan' is another name for water. This is clearly illustrated in both the outlets of Kavan, with an interior in a combination of green plants and blues. The walls are detailed further to replicate the texture of the houses often seen in villages. The idea is to portray a serene environment that is also soothing, much like our roots.

With the FIFA World Cup 2022 starting up, Kavan Signature will be ready with a big screen and projector, some exciting offers, and new platters of game snacks. Amazing food, great company, and football excitement all under one roof; what more could we ask for?

Checkout their Facebook page for more details: facebook.com/kavansignaturebd

By Nusrath Jahan
Photo: Kavan